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HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE OF
MINISTERS AND OFFICIALS
Second meeting
Nairobi, 17-18 November 1997

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

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2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the meeting.

3. Freshwater.

4. UNEP reform in the context of United Nations reform.

5. Adequate and predictable funding of UNEP.

6. Progress report on the Mercure telecommunication system.

7. Rules of procedure of the High-Level Committee of Ministers and Officials.

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ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Opening of the meeting

1. The meeting will be opened by Ms. Maria-Julia Alsogaray, Chair of the High-Level Committee of Ministers and Officials, at 10 a.m. on 17 November 1997.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the meeting

2. The meeting will have before it, for its consideration, the provisional agenda (UNEP/HLC/2/1) and annotated provisional agenda (UNEP/HLC/2/1/Add.1). The Bureau of the High-Level Committee of Ministers and Officials, at its meeting on 1 August 1997, selected priorities for the Committee which are contained in the agenda and which were selected in the light of the views expressed at the first meeting of the High-Level Committee of Ministers and Officials (New York, 28 June 1997).

3. The Committee may also wish to give consideration to the organization of the session, with a view to ensuring the most efficient management of the time available.

Item 3: Freshwater

4. At the first meeting of the High-Level Committee of Ministers and Officials, several Member States expressed strong support for the inclusion of the issue of freshwater in the programme of work of the High-Level Committee of Ministers and Officials. At its special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, the United Nations General Assembly also highlighted the importance of the issue of freshwater and called for a dialogue under the auspices of the Commission

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on Sustainable Development. In recognition of this, the Bureau of the High-Level Committee of Ministers and Officials selected freshwater as a priority issue for the Committee to address.

5. The Committee has before it, for its consideration, the report of the Executive Director on the UNEP freshwater strategy (UNEP/HLC/2/4).

Item 4: UNEP reform in the context of United Nations reform

6. At the first meeting of the High-Level Committee of Ministers and Officials, several Member States expressed the view that the reform of UNEP should be a priority issue before the Committee. At its nineteenth session, the Governing Council of UNEP took important decisions in this respect, which included those pertaining to the adoption of the Nairobi Declaration and the governance of UNEP.

7. In addition, the report of the Secretary-General: "Reviewing the United Nations: a programme for reform" (A/51/950), addressed a number of issues relating to the reform of UNEP, as well as providing for a process to address the fundamental reform of UNEP, culminating in a report on this matter, to be submitted to the Assembly at its fifty-third session.

8. The Bureau of the Committee selected the issue of the reform of UNEP as a priority before the Committee, so as to ensure that the Committee would be able to provide an early input to the further reform of UNEP.

9. The Committee has before it the report of the Executive Director on UNEP reform in the context of United Nations reform (UNEP/HLC/2/2), as well as an information note on the implications for UNEP of the outcome of the special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21 (UNEP/HLC/2/INF/3).

Item 5: Financing of UNEP

10. By its decision 19/32 on the governance of UNEP, the Governing Council identified, among the elements of the mandate of the High-Level Committee of Ministers and Officials, support to the Executive Director in mobilizing adequate and predictable financial resources. In addition, the Nairobi Declaration, adopted by the Council at its nineteenth session, also highlighted the need for stable, adequate and predictable financial resources. At the first meeting of the High-Level Committee of Ministers and Officials, several Member States attached high importance to the question of financing. The issue was also highlighted by the General Assembly at its special session.

11. In the light of the foregoing, the Bureau placed the question of the financing of UNEP on the agenda of the High-Level Committee of Ministers and Officials. The Committee will have before it the report of the Executive Director on the issue (UNEP/HLC/2/3) as well as an information document reviewing background issues (UNEP/HLC/2/INF/4).

Item 6: Progress report on Mercure

12. At its first meeting, the High-Level Committee of Ministers and Officials requested the Executive Director to prepare a progress report on the status of implementation of the Mercure satellite communications system, for its next meeting. The progress report is before the Committee as information document UNEP/HLC/2/INF/1.

Item 7: Rules of procedure of the High-Level Committee of Ministers and Officials

13. The Governing Council, in its decision 19/32, provided that "the rules of procedure of the Governing Council, including rule 63, shall apply, mutatis mutandis, to the High-Level Committee of Ministers and Officials until it adopts its own rules of procedure".

14. The Bureau requested the preparation of an information note for the Committee. This note, contained in document UNEP/HLC/2/INF/2, concludes that the Committee can function under the rules of procedure of the Governing Council as a transitional measure, while raising a number of issues that may be dealt with by the Committee at a subsequent meeting in the light of experience gained.

Item 8: Other matters

15. Under this item, the Committee may wish to confirm its decision, adopted at its first meeting, to entrust the finalization of the report to the Rapporteur, in consultation with the secretariat, and for the report to be distributed to all members of UNEP in a timely manner.

16. Members of the Committee may bring any other matter to the attention of the Committee.

Item 9: Closure of the meeting

17. The meeting is expected to conclude its work by 6 p.m. on Tuesday, 18 November 1997.